

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE/MW

7/20/73 EXT 20353

APPROVED BY NEA - MR. SISCO

NEA - KHARGE SOBER

S/S-O: S.E. FRY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 143876

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, UT, IR

SUBJECT: RELATIONS WITH AFGHAN REGIME.

REF: STATE 142393, ANKARA 5788, KABUL 3219, KABUL 5325

1. AMBASSADOR SULTAN KHAN CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO AT LATTER'S REQUEST. CHARGE SOBER AND CONSTABLE, NEA/PAB, SAT IN ON THIS JULY 20 MEETING.

2. SISCO STATED MEETING WAS IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT BHUTTO'S REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS BEFORE USG TOOK ACTION ON ITS RELATIONS WITH NEW REGIME IN AFGHANISTAN. SISCO REITERATED THAT WE HAD PLANNED TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH GOP ON AFGHAN SITUATION AND THEREFORE WELCOMED PRESIDENT BHUTTO'S INITIATIVE. HE SAID WE WERE ALSO CONSULTING IN ANKARA AND TEHRAN AND HAD ALREADY RECEIVED REPLY FROM GOT THAT THEY PERCEIVED NO DIFFICULTY IN US CONTINUING FULL RELATIONSHIP WITH NEW AFGHAN REGIME. SISCO THEN

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GAVE BRIEF BACKGROUND ON USG APPROACH TO OUR DIPLOMATIC

RELATIONS, EMPHASIZING OUR INCREASING TENDENCY TOWARD CONTINUITY IN RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES, AND AWAY FROM FORMAL ACTS OF RECOGNITION.

3. FOLLOWING CLOSELY POINTS IN PARAS 2 AND 3 OF STATE 142393, SISCO PRESENTED USG CASE FOR RAPID ACTION TO COMMUNICATE TO DAUD REGIME OUR DESIRE MAINTAIN CLOSE AND

CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN. SISCO CAREFULLY NOTED USG AWARENESS OF PAKISTAN'S CONCERNS ABOUT POSSIBLE ENHANCEMENT OF SOVIET ROLE IN AFGHANISTAN AND POTENTIAL FOR AFGHAN AGITATION OF PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE. REFERRING TO KABUL 5325, WHICH HAD JUST BEEN RECEIVED, SISCO DESCRIBED POINTS AMBASSADOR NEUMANN HAD MADE TO PRINCE NAIM ON RUMORS OF SOVIET FOREKNOWLEDGE OF OR INVOLVEMENT IN COUP AND ON AFGHAN TREATMENT OF PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE. SUBSTANCE OF NAIM'S REASSURANCES ON THESE POINTS ALSO CONVEYED TO SULTAN KHAN.

4. SISCO CONCLUDED HIS PRESENTATION BY STATING THAT WE BELIEVED IT IN MUTUAL INTEREST OF USG AND GOP THAT WE MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY TO CONTINUE BEST POSSIBLE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH NEW AFGHAN REGIME. STATED THAT BARRING SOME EXPRESSION OF OVERRIDING CONCERN BY GOI OR GOP, WE

WOULD EXPECT TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH PRESIDENT DAUD JULY 21. SISCO STATED THAT OUR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS WOULD BE LOW-KEY AND WOULD EMPHASIZE CONTINUITY OF RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN. SISCO ALSO NOTED THAT HE COULD ALSO SEE CERTAIN ADVANTAGES FOR GOP IF IT WERE TO MOVE TO NORMALIZE ITS NEW RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN AT EARLY OPPORTUNITY.

5. IN REPLY, SULTAN KHAN PRESENTED GOP CASE FOR CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN. HE CHARACTERIZED PERIOD OF DAUD RULE FROM '53-'63 AS ONE OF GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN PAK AFGHAN RELATIONS, WITH ONE PROBLEM FOLLOWING ON ANOTHER. HE DESCRIBED PAK ANXIETY THAT AFGHANS WILL ENTER INTO TREATY RELATIONSHIP WITH SOVIETS UNDER

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GUISE OF LATTER'S ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY PROPOSAL, THEREBY LEAVING PAKISTAN ISOLATED IN AREA A SUBJECT TO GREAT SOVIET PRESSURES. THESE WOULD BE FELT IN PART THROUGH AGITATION OF PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE. SULTAN KHAN PREDICTED THAT WITHIN MONTHS IF NOT WEEKS, WE WOULD WITNESS INCITEMENT OF PATHAN TRIBALS IN PAKISTAN BY INTRODUCTION OF ARMS, PROPAGANDA AND MONEY FROM AFGHANISTAN. SULTAN KHAN ALSO SPECULATED THAT DAUD AND NAIM, WHOM HE

CHARACTERIZED AS OLD AND AILING, WOULD NOT BE REAL FORCES IN NEW REGIME, BUT THAT WE SHOULD BE ON ALERT TO DISCOVER REAL POWER BEHIND COUP.

6. SULTAN KHAN ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, STRENGTH OF USG ARGUMENT FOR ADVISABILITY OF ESTABLISHING BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP WITH AFGHAN REGIME. HE SAID HE WOULD COMMUNICATE USG VIEWS TO PRESIDENT BHUTTO AND ADVISE US FURTHER.

7. SISCO CLOSED BY NOTING VALIDITY OF HEALTHY SKEPTICISM ON PART OF GOP TOWARD AFGHAN REGIME. HE SAID US WILL ALSO BE VIGILANT. WHILE THERE IS NO NEED TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS EITHER WAY AT THIS TIME AS TO FUTURE IN AFGHANISTAN, GIVEN POTENTIAL FOR DIFFICULTIES, IT BEHOOVES US NOT TO GIVE NEW AFGHAN REGIME ANY PRETEXT FOR MOVEMENT IN DIRECTIONS INIMICAL TO OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS. RUSH

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